

Clean Version of Replacement Claim:

1. (Twice Amended) A double belt transport system having an upstream end and a downstream end for moving a mailpiece from the upstream end into a printing area of a printer, wherein the mailpiece has a lower surface and an opposing upper surface to be printed by a print head located in the printing area, said transport system comprising:

an upper looping belt having a straight section with a predetermined width covering the printing area, wherein the straight section defines a registration plane regarding the print head; and

a lower looping belt having a mailpiece intake section that extends beyond the width of the upper belt adjacent the printing area running from the upstream end towards the downstream end, wherein the mailpiece intake section and the straight section form an ingest nip so that the tension of the lower belt is controlled by the elasticity of the lower belt wrapped around fixed pulleys to provide a normal force between mailpieces having different thicknesses and the upper belt for providing a friction force to move the mailpiece into the printing area for printing.